

Alumna Spotlight: Lisa E. Wills, PhD

2012 AAPP/GJMPP Alumna
 Educational Psychology and Research
 College of Education

Dr. Lisa Wills is the Senior Director for Undergraduate STEM Education. Dr. Wills comes to Association of American Colleges and Universities, Washington, DC, with a unique ability to direct the qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods research and evaluation efforts related to the work of PKAL and the Office of Undergraduate STEM Education. She will also use her extensive experience in developing and managing assessment planning and data utilization to drive improvements across AAC&U's portfolio of undergraduate STEM reform activities.

Before joining AAC&U, Dr. Wills was the acting manager for strategic performance assessment, evaluation, and data collection with the Office of Education at NASA headquarters. At NASA, she developed and implemented new STEM education evidence principles and policies to effectively evaluate the efficacy of projects and programs at both the headquarters and across all of NASA's ten Centers of Education. Prior to working in that role, Dr. Wills served as the senior education research associate and education research manager for the NASA Office of Education. Dr. Wills was also a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Biology at the University of North Florida, where she taught microbiology and English literature and composition.

Dr. Wills earned a Ph.D. in educational psychology and research and an M.A. in comparative literature from the University of South Carolina Columbia, and a B.S. in microbiology from Howard University. She is also a member of the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society and the International Academy for Intercultural Research, as well as an active conference contributor to the American Evaluation Association, the Mixed Methods International Research Association, and the American Educational Research Association.

source: <http://www.aacu.org/contributor/lisa-wills>



Senior Director

Undergraduate STEM Education
 Office of Undergraduate STEM
 The Association of American
 Colleges and Universities
 202-884-7406
wills@aacu.org

How do you feel the Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program (GJMPP) helped impact your successful completion of the PhD program and the quality of your graduate school experiences?

The Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program (GJMPP), formerly African American Professors Program, has been one of the most amazing educational experiences of my life! The director, Dr. John McFadden, and Administrative Coordinator, Mrs. Rhittie Gettone, were and still are exemplars of excellence and set the bar for the provident ways in which I move through my career. The programming was enlightening and highly informative and facilitated networking opportunities that I may not have had otherwise, internal and external to the university setting. Another unexpected but significant benefit of my participation in the GJMPP would be the lifelong friendships I've developed with some spectacular people. Those relationships, and my status as an alumna, provide a strong, vast, extremely talented network that I access regularly for inspiration and collaboration. I couldn't imagine being where I am today and doing the fascinating things I do daily without the privilege of having been a Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program doctoral scholar along the way. The enduring relationships with the people who are the GJMPP, Dr. John McFadden and Mrs. Rhittie Gettone, I will carry in my heart always.

Areas of Expertise:

Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Research Methods; Cognitive, Psychometric, and Survey Instrument Development; STEM Higher Education Program Performance Assessment and Evaluation

In This Issue

Alumni Spotlights.....	2-3	Monograph Topics.....	6-7	Featuring Noella "Binda" Niati.....	10
Tenured/Tenure Track Alumni.....	4	Professional Development Workshops and Events.....	8	Message from the Director.....	11
Graduate Commentaries.....	5	Staff/Scholars/Faculty Mentors.....	9	Alumni Donations.....	11
Alumni Statistics.....	5	Highlighting Community Service.....	10	Graduation Recognition and Holiday Dinner.....	12

Alumna Spotlight:

Tjuan Dogan, PhD

2002 AAPP/GJMPP Alumna
Educational Leadership and Policies
College of Education

I am Manager of IBM Corporate Citizenship, Atlanta, Georgia.

IBM Corporate Service Corps (CSC) is a pro bono consulting program, inspired by the Peace Corps, that deploys global teams of IBM's top talent to work with governments, non-profit organizations and others to help solve tough problems in developing economies. Individual CSC teams spend three months learning about the communities and the problems they'll address before spending four weeks on the ground working with local organizations and other relevant local stakeholders to develop recommendations for short-term and long-term actions. The program has achieved its primary goal—equipping IBMers for the challenges of working and leading in a global organization.

As a member of CSC, I worked on a strategic planning project with the National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa (NEMISA) and the "Internet for All" project. Our CSC team helped NEMISA with its plan to increase e-skills and human capacity for all South Africans, in collaboration with government, business, education & civil society. I am extremely honored to have participated in CSC with team mates from Argentina, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Mexico, Slovakia and the United States.

Now that you have had many experiences leading up to your assignment as a member of the IBM-CSC in Johannesburg, South Africa, could you provide us with some highlights of how you were able to escalate toward your current position?

Participating in the (then AAPP) program helped me become more confident about how to navigate my professional career. Dr. McFadden and other mentors encouraged me to publish, present my research, travel, teach, and always have my resume up-to-date. A big lesson I learned from participating in AAPP is to always stay ready for the next opportunity, seek great mentors, and feel confident about demonstrating in addition to communicating my value and expertise in the workplace and the community. Since graduating in 2003, I have served as director of the Center to Serve HBCUs at the Southern Education Foundation, as a senior program officer with a family foundation contributing more than \$20M annually, and I currently manage corporate citizenship with the IBM Foundation.

Did you experience any challenges enroute to being assigned to the leadership program.? If so, briefly cite them and indicate how you confronted each.

I work for a global technology company that is the third most recognized brand in the world. It's in an environment where change is

constant, which often translates to challenges. I've developed a mindset to see most challenges as opportunities. If I'm faced with a challenge, I learn from it and grow. There's no room for stagnation. There's a quote from Nelson Mandela that says, "I never lose. I either win or learn." I approach challenges with that same mindset.



How has this assignment been beneficial to you?

Participating in the IBM Corporate Service Corps in South Africa broadened my perspective and experience in working in a global environment. My team consisted of 15 professionals from nine different countries. We worked together to deliver pro bono service as a professional team of IBMers. In one month, we recommended strategies that could have a long-term impact on South Africa's Internet accessibility goals for its population. I benefitted professionally, culturally, and personally from my experience. I have business leaders around the world whom I can call for insight and assistance, and I have gained new friends for life in some of my team members.

In what ways might some of your positive encounters been of value to your alma mater, University of South Carolina?

I'm that rare breed of Gamecock with three degrees from USC. I'm garnet and black in every encounter! In my work, I often meet with government and education officials or funders who ask for my insight or opinion. I am always proud to discuss what USC is doing or talk about the scholars' accomplishments. A couple of years ago, I served on a board of an organization that wanted to honor me by making a donation in my name – I asked that the donation go to USC and a portion to the AAPP.

Could you envision any practical modes for maintaining linkage with the Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program in order to assist in broadening the minds and opportunities for our scholars?

I know the program has an academic mentoring component. I think that we probably have enough alumni now to establish a professional mentoring component. I would be willing, and I'm sure other alumni would be willing to mentor scholars as they make the transition from student to professional. I also appreciate the great network that the program promotes in sharing opportunities for professional growth and development. We have the technology and capabilities to create a more comprehensive digital network for students, alumni, mentors and others associated with GJMPP – that is another practical way to maintain engagement in the program. Lastly, a few years ago, I volunteered to lead our first alumni contributions campaign. We could probably re-engage more alumni and revisit alumni giving opportunities. So many of us benefitted from participating in AAPP.

What quotes might you offer remaining scholars so that they might use them as motivational guidelines upon further pursuit of their doctor of philosophy degree?

"To whom much is given, much is required". -Luke 12:48

"I never lose. I either win or learn." -Nelson Mandela

"Stay ready – then you never have to get ready!" - Tjuan Dogan

This wasn't one of the questions, but I wanted to say something about the monograph series.

As a scholar, the monograph series stretched me to publish my research and share it with others. It also encouraged me to read the research of my friends and other scholars in areas that were very different from my own. I remember reading research about engineering and pharmaceutical advancements because it was my friends' work. I realize now that I was being exposed to a variety of research areas. As a working professional, I find myself searching for information and reading current studies in areas that otherwise might not be of interest to me. I am thankful to the program, the monograph series, and my smart, scholarly friends in other areas who helped me to broaden my knowledge base and to promote a quest for lifelong learning in a variety of areas.



Alumnus Spotlight:

Anthony Palmer, PhD

2011 AAPP/GJMPP Alumnus
Journalism and Mass Communications
College of Mass Communications and Information Studies

**Dr. Palmer is American Diplomat/Consular Affairs Officer
United States Foreign Service
U.S. Embassy in Accra, Ghana.**

Now that you have had many experiences leading up to your current position in Ghana, could you provide us with some highlights of how you were able to escalate toward your current position?

As a consular officer, I am a member of the United States Foreign Service. It is very difficult to make it through all the steps, and being able to apply only once a year makes it even more difficult. I honestly think that, just like with writing a dissertation, the best approach that helped me get to where I am is that I simply refused to throw in the towel and complain about how "hard" it was or how "unfair" things seemed. The only way to guarantee that I would never make it into the Foreign Service would be if I simply gave up. Similarly, the only way to guarantee that you would never complete your dissertation is to simply give up. Somebody has to conduct research at our universities, teach our next generation of scholars, and, in my case, adjudicate visa cases and assist Americans in distress abroad. So why not let that person be you? But you have to give yourself a chance!

Did you experience any challenges enroute to being selected for your current position? If so, briefly cite them and indicate how you confronted each.

It took me several tries and several years to pass all the steps. On my third attempt, I made it all the way to the oral assessment for the first time, which was the last step before being given a conditional job offer and undergoing security clearances. However, I failed that assessment. I was so disappointed in myself, but I figured that it was okay because I did not know what to expect and would be ready the next time. In the following year (my fourth attempt), I made it back to the oral assessment. I was a bit overconfident and tried to recreate my performance from the previous year's candidacy. I ended up failing that assessment as well, except my score was even lower. That experience was humbling and valuable to me because I forgot how much work this candidacy required. I tried to skate through on my prior knowledge base and memory alone instead of doing the difficult work of actually preparing for this assessment as thoroughly as I could. Being escorted from the assessment center was so demoralizing, but it made me hungrier for this position. So on my fifth attempt, I made it back to the oral assessment for a third consecutive year. This time I really focused on my training materials and realized where I had been going wrong with my previous approach. Despite my intelligence and personal characteristics, I was not displaying them in ways that were most beneficial to me. So I changed my strategy and ultimately walked away from the assessment center with the fat envelope. It took another nine months before I was actually invited to an orientation class, but that fourth candidacy failure was instrumental in making my fifth candidacy a success. Failure is only failure if you don't learn anything from it.

Has your ability to speak Japanese or any other language been beneficial to you in your current position?

My ability to speak Japanese got me off of language probation before I even left Washington. It also got me my next assignment, which is good news for AAPP/GJMPP: I will be a consular officer at the US Consulate General in Osaka, Japan after I leave Ghana in the summer of 2019. The Foreign Service really lets you choose your own adventure, but it's much easier to do this if you can check off enough boxes beforehand. There's no way I would have been selected for any position in Japan without this documented proficiency.

In what ways might some of your positive encounters be of value to soon to be your alma mater, University of South Carolina?

Being able to meet Ghanaians and people from other parts of the world and tell them with pride that I am from South Carolina helps promote tourism and a more positive image of our state. I may be the first American or the first foreigner many of these people have ever met, and having South Carolina associated with that can be a powerful thing. Maybe, someone will decide to send his or her daughter to study abroad at University of South Carolina after meeting me. Or, maybe, a family will decide to visit Charleston or Myrtle Beach for its summer vacation. This positive representation can have a multiplier effect.

Could you envision any practical modes for maintaining linkage with the Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program in order to assist in broadening the minds and opportunities for our scholars?

When I was a PhD student at USC I remember many frustrations; however, I knew that there would be a much better life on the other side of the graduation podium. My degree and the training it required have benefited me tremendously. I have the skills to research information independently and to know where to find what I need without relying on others. The AAPP/GJMPP gave me the tenacity to successfully navigate these personal and professional waters. If I am able to mentor any current scholars, I would enjoy that opportunity to give back to the program that gave me so much.

What quotes might you offer remaining scholars so that they might use them as motivational guidelines upon further pursuit of their doctor of philosophy degree?

"What do you call someone who takes eight years to finish his or her PhD? Doctor."

"Never give up on yourself because your dreams and your successes are no one else's responsibility."

"It doesn't matter how long it takes you to get there. Just get there."

AAPP/GJMPP and SEAGEP Alumni

Tenured/Tenure-Track

Tenured



Dorinda J. Gallant, PhD

2005 AAPP Alumna
Educational Studies/Research
and Measurement
College of Education
Associate Professor
Quantitative Research, Evaluation
and Measurement
College of Education and Human Ecology
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio



George L. Johnson, Jr., PhD

2005 Alumnus
Educational Studies/Special Education
College of Education
Associate Professor
Special Education Academic Program
Coordinator
Humanities and Social Sciences South
Carolina State University Orangeburg,
South Carolina



Terry Carter, PhD

2002 AAPP Alumnus
English
College of Arts and Sciences
Professor of English
Kennesaw State University - Marietta
Marietta, Georgia



Tracy H. Dunn, PhD

2003 AAPP Alumna
Marketing
Darla Moore School of Business Interim
Dean
The Thyrone Adam Burroughs School of
Business and Economics Benedict College
Columbia, South Carolina



Sirena Hargrove-Leak, PhD

2003 AAPP Alumna
Chemical Engineering
College of Engineering and Computing
Associate Professor
Engineering
Elon College
College of Arts and Sciences
Elon University
Elon, North Carolina



Fredrick A. Gardin, PhD

2009 AAPP Alumnus
Physical Education
College of Education
Associate Professor
Athletic Training Program Coordinator
Montclair State University
Montclair, New Jersey

Tenure-Track



Charity Brown Griffin, PhD

2014 AAPP Alumna
School of Psychology
College of Arts and Sciences
Licensed Psychologist
Assistant Professor
Winston-Salem State University
Winston-Salem, North Carolina



Ari Perez Mejia, PhD

2014 SEAGEP Alumnus
Civil and Environmental Engineering
College of Engineering and Computing
Assistant professor
Civil Engineering
School of Engineering
Quinnipiac University
Hamden, Connecticut



Erin C. McKie, PhD

2017 GJMPP Alumna
Management Science
Darla Moore School of Business
Assistant Professor
Department of Management Sciences
Fisher College of Business
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio



Toby L. Nelson, PhD

2007 AAPP Alumnus
Chemistry and Biochemistry
College of Arts and Sciences
Assistant Professor
Department of Chemistry
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, Oklahoma



Kevin M. Daniels, PhD

2013 AAPP/SEAGEP Alumnus
Electrical Engineering
College of Engineering and Computing
Assistant Professor
Electrical and Computer Engineering
University of Maryland - College Park
College Park, Maryland



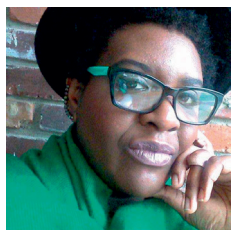
Shakena L. Daniel, PhD

2013 SEAGEP Alumna
Chemistry and Biochemistry
Assistant Professor
Chemistry
Wingate University
Wingate, North Carolina

2017 Graduate Commentaries

Porchia A. Moore, PhD

School of Library and Information Science
College of Information and Communications



It is no common feat to complete a PhD program. Many will achieve this goal and not all will succeed. While my success during my academic tenure

at the University of South Carolina is one that I am proud of, what made the success that much sweeter was knowing that there was a community of friends behind me.

Being a part of the AAPP/GJMPP family for the past 5 years meant that I could secure a delicious breakfast once a month, be provided financial support to purchase books, resources, attend conferences, and even help take care of my family. While many students felt isolated or siloed in their departments, I knew that I could not only learn a new skill set or some viable source of information each month, but I was guaranteed authentic smiles and genuine fellowship at our monthly gatherings. I am so honored and humbled to say that this has been an extended family for me all these years. To follow in the intellectual footsteps of Dr. McFadden and the Black excellence of my peers has been more than rewarding. It has been edifying.

Thank you to all your support and guidance. Onward!

She delivered the keynote address, Radical Inclusion in Museums, for the Association of American Art Museum Directors, Miami, Florida, January 2017.

Dissertation Title: "Shifting the Aircraft Carrier: Why Race Matters in Museums: A Case Study Examining Inclusive Practices at a Museum and Historic Site"
Faculty Mentors: Kendra Albright, PhD and Dick Kawooya, PhD

Dr. Moore is an Inclusion Catalyst Communications and Visitor Services Columbia Museum of Art Columbia, South Carolina.



Erin C. McKie, PhD

Management Science
Darla Moore School of Business



I am so thankful to have been a part of the Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program-GJMPP, formerly African American Professors Program.-AAPP. The outstanding

mentorship from Dr. McFadden and Mrs. Rhittie Gettone, opportunities to network with other students and faculty across campus were invaluable during my time as a PhD student.

A salient strength of the program is the monthly seminar meetings where students are exposed to cutting-edge data analysis methodologies, teaching strategies, and grant writing fundamentals. These sessions truly enhanced and complemented my course curriculum. In fact, as a result of the grant writing workshop, I was able to successfully obtain funding for a key project for my dissertation!

As I transition from a doctoral student to a faculty member, I know I will have opportunities to apply my learnings in my new role and look forward to giving back to the GJMPP in the future.

Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program is to be applauded for its commitment to excellence and attention to minority doctoral students at the University of South Carolina.

Dissertation Title: "Sustainable, Operations-Enabled Solutions for Reducing Product Waste"

Faculty Mentor: Yasmin Kor, MBA, PhD

Dr. McKie is an Assistant Professor Management Science The Ohio State University Columbus, Ohio.

Sheldon J. Johnson, Jr., DMA

Music Performance - Saxophone
School of Music



The decision to leave a full-time job as an elementary music teacher and return to school as a full-time doctoral student was not an easy decision. Faced with very different offers from a

few varied institutions, my decision to attend the University of South Carolina was made in no small part because of the opportunity to be a part of such a one-of-a-kind and all too rare community like the Grace Jordan McFadden Professor's Program (GJMPP).

I will always look back so very fondly on my time as a scholar in the GJMPP. Especially as someone who comes from an academic discipline that has historically not privileged diversity, the opportunity to commune with and learn from academics from various cultural and scholarly backgrounds this made my time at the University of South Carolina even richer.

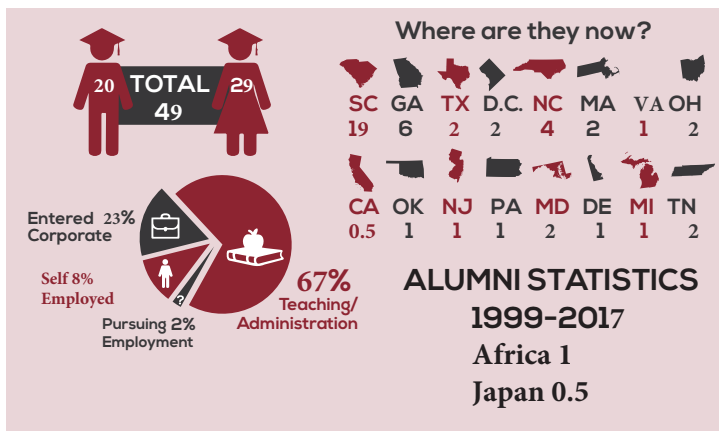
As a member of such an inclusive and welcoming cohort, the GJMPP provided me with an invaluable sense of community and support. From day one, the care and concern about each individual scholar exhibited by Dr. McFadden and Mrs. Gettone were evident and ever-present. Each aspect of the support provided by the GJMPP fills a necessary void in the needs of any aspiring academic and I could not be more grateful and proud to be a part of the GJMPP family.

I wish the absolute best for all current and future scholars and want for more people to know about the tremendous work and mission of the GJMPP.

Dissertation Title: "The Political Suppression of the Saxophone and its Subsequent Pedagogical Development in Select Non-Democratic Countries"

Faculty Mentor: Clifford Leaman, DMA

Dr. Johnson is an Instructor Saxophone Department of Music Radford University Radford, Virginia.



2016 Monograph Topics

African American Professors Program

Brianna R. Cornelius
English Language
and Literature

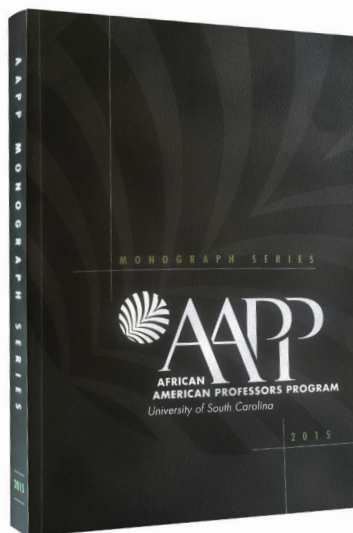
*African American English
(AAE) and Male Speech:
Management and Mitigation
of Masculinity*

Frank C. Martin II
Philosophy

*Art and Inference, a Critique:
Juan Logan's Intriguing Visual
Expressions as
Conversational Implicatures*

Odell L. Glenn, Jr.
Chemical Engineering

*Deactivation of Cat Allergen
Protein with Essential Oils: A
Preliminary Report*



Yvon L. Woappi
Pathology, Microbiology,
and Immunology

*Seeding Multicellular
Keratinocyte Spheroids in 2-D
Monolayer Culture Activates
Basal Stem-Like Cell
Proliferation*

Tracy H. Dunn, PhD
2003 GJMPP Alumna Business
Administration

*Management & Marketing
School of Business
and Economics
Benedict College
Columbia, South Carolina
Distractions in DTC Advertising:
A Call for More Research*

Malcolm S. Bevel, MSPH

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

*The Sistas Inspiring Sistas through Activity and Support (SISTAS)
Research Study: A Preliminary Report*

Swann A. Adams, PhD and Sue P. Heiney, PhD, USC College of Nursing

Heather M. Brandt, PhD, Department of Health Promotion, Education and Behavior

Michael D. Worth, PhD, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Tom G. Hurley, MS and Samira, Kahn, MSW, USC Cancer Prevention and Control Program

Hiluv Johnson, BS, USC College of Arts and Sciences

Cassandra M. Wineglass, PhD, University of Phoenix, Columbia, SC

Tatiana Y Warren-Jones, PhD, Just TATI, LLC, Washington, DC

E. Angela Murph, PhD, USC School of Medicine

James R. Hebert, ScD, USC Cancer Prevention and Control Program



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

2017 Monograph Topics

Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program

Inaugural Edition

Toby L. Nelson, PhD

2007 Alumnus

Chemistry and Biochemistry

***Eumelanin-Inspired Biindoles
via Solvent-Free Conditions***

Assistant Professor

Department of Chemistry

Oklahoma State University

Stillwater, Oklahoma

RaiAnna A. Hopson

Chemistry Graduate Student

Susan Pham

Chemistry Undergraduate Student

Terry Carter, PhD

2002 Alumnus

English

Fifteen Years Beyond My AAPP Graduation

Professor of English

Kennesaw State University

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Marietta Campus

(Formerly Southern Polytechnic

State University)

Marietta, Georgia

Charity Brown Griffin, PhD

2014 Alumna

School of Psychology

School Racial Climate: A Brief Review

Exploring African American Youths'

Perceptions, Associations with

Their Educational Outcomes,

and Implications for Educational Practice

Assistant Professor of Psychological Sciences

Department of Psychological Sciences

College of Arts and Sciences

Winston-Salem State University

Winson-Salem, North Carolina

Alisia Williams

Undergraduate Psychology Major

Simone A. F. Gause, PhD

2016 Alumna

Educational Leadership

and Policies/Higher Education

A Case Study of Mergers in Higher Education:

Sharing Purpose, Vision

and Identity

Assistant Dean for Strategy

and Innovation

College of Education

University of South Carolina

Columbia, South Carolina

Yvon L. Woappi, PhD

2016 Alumnus

Biomedical Science

***Neonatal Keratinocyte Spheroids Are Enriched
for Epidermal Stem-Like Cells***

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Brigham and Women's Hospital

Department of Dermatology

Harvard Medical School

Boston, Massachusetts

Luci Pirisi, Professor

Department of Pathology, Microbiology
and Immunology

School of Medicine

University of South Carolina

Columbia, South Carolina

Anita M. Rawls, PhD

2009 Alumna

Educational Studies/Research
and Measurement

***Evaluating the Accuracy
of Cognitive Ability Estimates***

Psychometrician

Assessment Division

Psychometrics

The College Board

Yardley, Pennsylvania



Spring 2017-Fall 2017

Professional Development Workshops & Events

January 20, 2017

Graduate Scholar Research Symposium

February 17, 2017

Optimally Navigating the PhD Experience

March 17, 2017

Lunch and Learn SAS/ SPSS

April 21, 2017

**Annual Think Tank
and Research Presentations**

August 21, 2017

Fall Orientation

September 15, 2017

Work/Life/Balance

October 27, 2017

Opportunities to Network

November 17, 2017

Mock Interview

December 17, 2017

Graduation Recognition Dinner



Mentoring/Advising



Fall Orientation 2017



Work/Life/Balance: Time Management and Optimum Wellness in Academe, Work, Social

2017-2018 Staff/Scholars/Faculty Mentors



Director

Johnnie McFadden, PhD

Administrative Coordinator

Rhittie Gettone, MEd

Work Study

Kristen Williams

Doctoral Scholar

Douglas J. Archie III
Candace A. Bethea
Malcolm S. Bevel
Genine L. Blue
Ramelle Brooks
Anthony T. Carr
Brianna R. Cornelius (ABD), New York
Candace N. Cunningham (ABD)
Cynthia Duncan Joseph
Andrea M. Fleming

Odell L. Glenn, Jr. (ABD)

Victor D. Kidd

Frank C. Martin II (ABD)

Samantha L. McNeal

Noella B. Niati (Boren Fellow-Senegal & Fulbright Scholar, Ivory Coast)

Don S. Polite, Jr.

Jonathan C. Rann

Lauren A. Reid

Benedicth O. Ukhueduan

Sabrina L. Wannamaker

Kiesha M. Wilson

Faculty Mentor

Bret Kloos, PhD

Jesse L. Kass, PhD

Swann A. Adams, PhD

Christine DiStefano, PhD

Carl R. Wells, PhD

Ryan G. Carlson, PhD

Tracey L. Weldon, PhD

Bobby J. Donaldson, PhD

Todd C. Shaw, PhD

Russell Haber, PhD

Kathy M. Evans, PhD

Michael A. Matthews, PhD

Richard M. Southall, EdD

Anne L. Bezuidenhout, PhD

Mohammed A. Baalousha, PhD

Jamelle H. Ellis, PhD (AAPP Alumna)

Michelle Bryan, PhD

Matthew D. Childs, PhD

Amit Almor PhD

Angela D. Liese, PhD

Rekha Patel, PhD

Moody Crews, PhD

Berten E. Ely III, PhD

Scholar Academic Area

Clinical-Community Psychology

Mathematics

Public Health/Epidemiology

Educational Studies/Research

Music - Voice Performance

Educational Studies - Counselor Education

Linguistics

History

Political Science

Educational Studies - Counselor Education

Chemical Engineering

Sport and Entertainment Management

Philosophy

Environmental Health Sciences

Educational Studies

Foundations and Inquiry

History

Experimental Psychology

Public Health/Epidemiology

Biological Sciences

Educational Studies - Counselor Education

Biological Sciences



GJMPP Scholars

Highlighting Community Service

Service Coordinator, Kiesha M. Wilson GJMPP Scholar, Biological Sciences



Allen University Community Service

Working with Dr. Flavia Eldemire, the GJMPP group, along with a journalism and hospitality representative invited by Dr. Eldemire, was able to meet and discuss post-graduation options with Allen University seniors emphasizing graduate level education. The panel began by having Allen seniors give a brief statement of their career aspirations and interest. Supplementary material was shared with students to provide them with tips for steps needed to follow their post-graduation paths as well as information regarding the difference a graduate degree can make in their future career search. GJMPP scholars then introduced themselves and provided information about their journey to graduate school and future aspirations. After these

brief introductions, the seniors were separated into groups based on their fields of interest. GJMPP scholars and the other representatives broke into these groups as well and had more intimate discussions with the seniors of common focus. The importance of networking was stressed during this event no matter which post-graduation path is chosen and small groups helped the students to practice the art of networking. Dr. Eldemire expressed her gratitude and thanks to GJMPP scholars for continuing their work with her and the students.

Salvation Army Angel Tree Community Service

The GJMPP scholars adopted four children this year through the Salvation Army's Annual Angel Tree. Each child, ages 4-12, was provided with clothes and other items from the child's wish list. Ms. Sarah Newcomb, Angel Tree coordinator, sent many thanks and Happy Holidays for the GJMPP scholars. Ms. Newcomb stated that the Salvation Army looks forward to working with GJMPP scholars in the future.



Featuring Noella "Binda" Niati

GJMPP Scholar, Educational Studies, Foundations and Inquiry

Now that you are embarking upon your doctoral graduation from the University of South Carolina and having had experience as a scholar in the Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program, we are interested in learning more about some of the highlights of your experience in South Carolina as well as your upcoming assignment in West Africa. Could you provide us with some highlights of how you were able to escalate toward a successful international fellowship?

I am currently in the dissertation phase of my academic career here at USC. I started my doctoral program in the Educational Foundations and Inquiry (EDFI) Department with Dr. Payal Shah as my advisor. I was intent on having a full, rewarding and challenging graduate career, much like I had experienced at the University of Rochester. So, I was very eager to apply and hopefully receive scholarships, fellowships, or grants to not only help with tuition but with research and increased visibility. What was interesting in my case was that I was very open with my advisors and my professors of my wish to engage in research and work in assistantships that would provide me with international exposure and/or expertise. As such, after quitting my full-time job to devote 100% time to my studies, I first worked for the U.S Walker Institute for International and Area Studies and then the Rule of Law Collaborative. Both of these positions provided me with international exposure, drew me close to faculty working in international affairs and on the ground. These were the initial experiences that gave me the background and confidence to apply for international fellowships.

Did you experience any challenges enroute to being a recipient of this award? If so, briefly cite them and indicate how you confronted each.

Applying for the Boren or the Fulbright fellowship is an intimidating, time consuming, and stressful endeavor. You must really want this. I spent about six months working on my application: from essays, letters of recommendations, and logistics. It was hard to write the personal statement and even harder to justify my research project on the basis of all the information provided. It was incredibly humbling and difficult.

What are a few of your plans while you are engaged in this Francophone fellowship?

Through the Fulbright Public Policy Fellowship, while in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, I will be working as a special assistant to the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research for the Country of Cote d'Ivoire. I will be working with the university systems in the country as well as research centers to coordinate, research and implement policies that will benefit the higher education system.

In what ways might some of your positive encounters be of value to soon to be your alma mater, University of South Carolina?

I am always open to discuss my experiences, offer guidance in regards to grant writing and/or living and working abroad. I think it's very necessary for graduate students to be able to communicate in another language, not only to enhance their research but to position them to be competitive in other facets of their professional lives.

Could you envision any practical modes for maintaining linkage with GJMPP in order to assist in broadening the minds and opportunities for our scholars?

I think it's very important to maintain contact with GJMPP scholars because the support and the influence an organization such as this offers is immense. I am very active on LinkedIn but I hope to create ways by which alumni and current scholars can remain in contact in order to utilize those connections and networks to emphasize scholars' work and also showcase the work GJMPP continues to do and its impact.

What quotes might you offer remaining scholars so that they might use them as motivational guidelines upon further pursuit of their doctor of philosophy degree?

"Go where you're wanted."

"Know yourself."

Message from the Director

It is always appropriate to acknowledge and render a special tribute to the 1997 founders of the African American Professors Program-AAPP at the University of South Carolina-USC. Drs. Aretha B. Pigford and Leonard O. Pellicer, Distinguished Professors, formerly significant faculty members in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policies, College of Education, are credited with conceiving the idea for AAPP through initial funding from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and the South Carolina General Assembly with reassuring sponsorship by USC.

On September 16, 2016, the USC Board of Trustees approved an official title change for AAPP to the Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program-GJMPP, as endorsed by the University's Provost Joan T. A. Gabel. She communicated that this name change "would honor a much beloved faculty member who was dedicated to advancing the careers of underrepresented minority faculty". Support of this historic distinction and special tribute for Dr. Grace Jordan McFadden is embraced by the African American Studies Program leadership with its affiliated faculty members. A special note of gratitude is extended to all of our colleagues who contribute their academic and administrative sources toward the advancement of the Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program.



Johnnie McFadden, PhD

The Benjamin Eijah Mays
Distinguished Professor Emeritus

Director of Grace Jordan
McFadden Professors Program

AAPP/GJMPP Alumni Donate \$2,000 to the Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program Alumni Fund



Tracy H. Dunn, PhD, donated \$500. Dr. Dunn is a 2003 USC Graduate in Business Administration, Management and Marketing. She was named Distinguished Faculty Member of the Year for 2016-2017 at Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina. Dr. Dunn is an Associate Professor of Marketing, School of Business and Economics, at Benedict. She recently published a research paper, "Distractions in DC Advertising: A Call for More Research", as an African American Professors Program alumna, in the 2016 edition of the African American Professors Program Monograph, and presented her research at the April 2017 Think Tank Professional Development Workshop for the Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program-GJMPP.



Phyllis I. Perkins, PharmD, PhD, MBA, donated \$1,500. Dr. Perkins is a 2005 USC graduate in Pharmacy Administration and is currently a Pharmacist with the Moncrief Army Community Hospital, Fort Jackson, South Carolina and a Rite-Aid Pharmacy, Columbia, South Carolina.

Donations to the Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program Alumni Fund (formerly African American Professors Program Alumni Fund) can be mailed to: USC Educational Foundation, Gift Processing, 1027 Barnwell Street, Columbia, SC 29208. Please make checks payable to USC Educational Foundation and note Account 31287 in the memo section.



Grace Jordan McFadden
Professors Program

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**GRADUATION RECOGNITION
AND HOLIDAY DINNER**

Sunday, December 17, 2017 ~ 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Capstone Campus Room, 1st Floor

Programme

Welcome/Occasion

Johnnie McFadden, PhD

The Benjamin E. Mays Distinguished Professor Emeritus
Director, Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program (GJMPP)

Blessing of Food

Ramelle Brooks, GJMPP Scholar
Music Performance-Voice

Dinner

Summary of 2017 Monograph

Marva J. Larrabee, EdD
Distinguished Professor Emerita
Co-editor of Monograph Series

Presenting the 2017 Graduates

Johnnie McFadden

Porchia A. Moore, PhD
School of Library and Information Science
College of Information and Communications

Sheldon J. Johnson, Jr., DMA
Music Performance - Saxophone
School of Music

Erin C. McKie, PhD
Management Science
Darla Moore School of Business

Salute to 2017 Graduates

Ramelle Brooks
Carl R. Wells, PhD
Assistant Director and Director of Training
Office of Equal Opportunity Programs, University of South Carolina

Remarks

Johnnie McFadden

Adjournment